

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

The Honorable Michael R. Pence
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20502

Dear President Trump and Vice President Pence,

We write to thank you for your leadership as our nation battles an invisible enemy: the novel coronavirus. Our people are struggling, our nation is hurting, but we will overcome this disaster and emerge stronger than ever. While our nation's immediate focus must be arresting the spread of this virus, we believe that America's leaders must also examine the long-term threat that China poses to our economic and national security. We urge you to reevaluate the trust and reliance our country has placed in China, and we stand ready to work with you to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign powers.

Reports indicate that Chinese officials understood the danger coronavirus posed as early as November 2019, yet they chose to cover it up. In fact, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) ordered the destruction of research samples, refused to admit World Health Organization (WHO) investigators to Wuhan, and even jailed Dr. Li Wenliang, the brave whistleblower who first warned of the coronavirus' deadliness. China denied the evidence of human-to-human transmission and also allowed thousands of infected individuals to leave Wuhan and travel across the globe.

In late February¹, China began a radical effort to shift blame for failing to contain the virus from their own government to scapegoating the United States. The CCP claimed the U.S. military created and spread the disease throughout China. Chinese state-controlled media went so far as to tell Chinese citizens that, "President Trump went to China and released vials of COVID-19 on groups of unsuspecting men, women, and children²."

¹ <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/inside-chinas-campaign-to-blame-the-us-for-the-coronavirus-pandemic-2020-03-15>

² <https://www.foxnews.com/us/china-smear-united-states-coronavirus-wuhan>

If China's irresponsible handling of this public health crisis and its false propaganda was not enough, Chinese officials have more recently threatened to cut off the U.S. from desperately needed medical supplies and pharmaceuticals. This is especially troubling given that the FDA estimates China produces 80 percent³ of all raw ingredients used in medications.

It is clear that the United States must reconsider its relationship with China. The CCP's control of our nation's critical drug supply, and other goods, constitutes a clear and present danger to our nation's long-term security. Accordingly, the United States must immediately begin establishing domestic sources for these goods and reestablish our own independent capacities without relying on a foreign power that our own Department of Defense considers an adversary.⁴

The coronavirus pandemic will end, but China's provocations will not. We can no longer rely on an unfriendly nation and must take bold action to reconstitute our American ingenuity. As such, we urge your Administration to determine what steps are necessary to reduce America's dependence on Chinese-made goods, to reestablish America's preeminence in pharmaceutical manufacturing, and put America's interests first - today, tomorrow, and forever.

Sincerely,



Ken Buck
Member of Congress

³ <https://www.foxnews.com/us/america-dependent-china-medicines>

⁴ <https://www.foxnews.com/world/chinese-media-ramps-up-trade-war-rhetoric-saying-it-is-creation-of-one-person-and-his-administration>

The letter is also signed by the following Members of Congress:

Rep. Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Rep. Jim Banks
Rep. Andy Biggs
Rep. Ted S. Yoho, D.V.M.
Rep. Matt Gaetz
Rep. Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Rep. Jody Hice
Rep. Mike Kelly
Rep. Vicky Hartzler
Rep. Michael Waltz
Rep. Ben Cline
Rep. Michael Guest
Rep. Doug Lamborn
Rep. Steve King
Rep. Denver L. Riggleman III
Rep. Scott Perry
Rep. Ron Wright
Rep. Louie Gohmert
Rep. Ted Budd
Rep. Bob Gibbs
Rep. Michael Cloud